

Art Unit: 1796

In page 1, on line 4, insert, -- FIELD OF THE INVENTION--.

In page 1, on line <sup>7 KW 12/5/08</sup> 6, insert, -- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

In page 1, on line 28, insert, -- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

In page 1, on line 31, insert, -- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

5 Claims 13-52 are allowed.

#### STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

6 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record (US 4,046,752) does not teach or disclose a method for dyeing hair comprising applying to the hair a colorant comprising at least one thazolium azo dye of the claimed formula (I) as claimed. Further, the closest prior art of record (US' 752) does not teach or disclose agents for dyeing keratin fibers comprising at least one thiazolium azo dye of the claimed formula (I) in a combination with at least one additional direct dye or at least one polymer compound or at least one oxidation dye as claimed. Accordingly, the claimed subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art of keratin fibers dyeing formulation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eisa B. Elhilo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1315. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (8:00 -4:30).